
Chorley Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S
REPORT.

1904.

CHORLEY, MARCH, 1905.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

GENTLEMEN,

In this, my thirtieth Annual Report to yourselves and your predecessors, the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Chorley Union, I am able to give you a much more satisfactory Death-rate than I used to be—though the Birth-rate in your Authority, like that obtaining throughout England and Wales, is much less than it was thirty years ago.

During the year ending December 31st, 1904, five hundred and fourteen (514) Births were registered, yielding, upon an estimated population in your District of 20,200, a Birth-rate of 25.45 per thousand. This is a further decrease upon the Birth-rate in the Chorley Rural District in 1903, viz, 26.30 per thousand, and is considerably below the rate for England and Wales, viz, 27.9 per thousand in 1904, and 28.4 in 1903.

As you will see from Table A, in which the Births of 1904 and the two preceding years are arranged under each Sub-District, in Leyland Sub-District only was there a higher Birth-rate in 1904 than in 1903; in Rivington the Birth-rate was stationary, whilst in Chorley, Brindle, and Croston the rates were lower in 1904 than in 1903.

TABLE A.

Sub-District.	1904.		1903.		1902.	
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.
Chorley	152	30.7	159	32.8	164	34.7
Brindle	70	20.6	74	21.9	70	21.0
Croston	105	24.7	113	26.9	115	27.4
Leyland	131	25.7	124	24.6	149	30.1
Rivington	56	22.2	56	22.2	105	42.0
Totals	514	25.4	526	26.3	603	30.6

The Chorley Sub-District was the only division that yielded a higher Birth-rate than the average throughout England and Wales—all the other sub-districts, especially Brindle and Rivington, gave much lower rates than the Birth-rate of the country. The average Birth-rate in your District for the ten years preceding 1904 was 29.2, exactly the same as the average Birth-rate throughout England and Wales; but whereas the Birth-rate of 1904 throughout the country is only 1.3 per thousand below the average of the preceding ten years (1894—1903), the Chorley Rural District shows a decrease of 3.8 per thousand, which is not satisfactory. Two hundred and forty-six (246) Boys and two hundred and sixty-eight (268) Girls were born during the year. If, however, I cannot give you an increasing, or even a stationary Birth-rate, I am glad to report a continuance of the low Death-rate that I was able to notify to you last year. Two hundred and ninety-one (291) Deaths, of which one hundred and forty-two (142) were Males and one hundred and forty-nine (149) were Females, were registered in 1904, yielding a Death-rate of 14.4 per thousand, as compared with 14.9 obtained from two hundred and ninety-eight (298) Deaths in 1903. Four (4) of these Deaths were in children brought from Chorley Borough to the Isolation Hospital, and two (2) Deaths of Residents* in your District occurred in Manchester. The net number of Deaths of Residents is therefore two hundred and eighty-nine (289), with a net Death-rate of 14.3 per thousand. The average Death-rate for your District for the ten years preceding 1904 was 15.5 per thousand, or 1.1 per thousand above the registered, and 1.2 per thousand above the net Death-rate for 1904. The Death-rate throughout England and Wales in 1904 was 16.2, and excluding the 218 towns, was 15.3 per thousand—rates considerably in excess of that obtaining in your district. Again, whilst the Death-rate throughout the country in 1904 was 0.8 above that of 1903, the registered Death-rate in your district was 0.5 below that of 1903, and the net Death-rate the same as in the preceding year.

From Table B you will see that the Death-rates of the Residents in Chorley and Brindle Sub-Districts were less in 1904 than in 1903, whilst there were higher Death-rates in Croston, Leyland, and Rivington Sub-Districts last year than in the preceding one.

TABLE B.

Sub-Districts.	1904. Death-rate.	1903. Death-rate.
Chorley	14.5	16.3
Brindle	13.2	17.1
Croston ..	15.3	13.5
Leyland.....	13.9	12.7
Rivington	14.3	11.1

In Table C I arrange the Deaths registered in 1904 and 1903 under each township in which they occurred, and note the increase or decrease in the number of Deaths in each township during 1904, as compared with 1903.

TABLE C.

Townships.	1904. Number of Deaths.	1903. Number of Deaths.	1904.	
			Increase.	Decrease.
Charnock Richard	11	7	4	...
Coppull	49	56	...	7
Duxbury	3	3
Heapey	7	6	1	...
Welch Whittle	1	6	...	5
Total in Chorley Sub-District.....	71	78	5	12
Brindle	19	22	...	3
Hoghton	10	21	...	11
Wheelton	16	20	...	4
Total in Brindle Sub-District	45	63	...	18
Bretherton	14	9	5	...
Eccleston.....	20	25	...	5
Heskin	9	2	7	...
Mawdesley	11	14	...	3
Ulnes Walton.....	10	7	3	...
Total in Croston Sub-District.....	64	57	15	8
Clayton-le-Woods	17	10	7	...
Cuerden	7	5	2	...
Euxton	20	16	4	...
Whittle-le-Woods	25	33	...	8
Total in Leyland Sub-District ...	69	64	13	8
Anderton	21	9	12	...
Anglezarke
Heath Charnock.....	15	23	...	8
Rivington	6	4	2	...
Total in Rivington Sub-District...	42	36	14	8
Totals.....	291	298	47	54

Here you will see that the decrease in the number of Deaths occurred in the Brindle Sub-District, in all of the townships comprised therein—in Chorley Sub-District, in Coppull, and Welch Whittle—Croston Sub-District, in Eccleston and Bretherton—in Leyland Sub-District, in Whittle—and in Rivington Sub-District, in Heath Charnock. On the other hand, in Chorley Sub-District there was an increased number of Deaths in Charnock Richard and Heapey—in Croston Sub-District, in Bretherton, Heeskin, and Ulnes Walton—in Leyland Sub-District, in Clayton-le-Woods, Cuerden, and Euxton—and in Rivington Sub-District, in Anderton and Rivington.

Table D gives the mortality in each Quarter during the year, and from it you will see that more Deaths were registered in the first and fourth Quarters, but fewer Deaths in the second and third Quarters of 1904 than in the corresponding Quarters of 1903.

TABLE D.

Year.	Deaths in First Quarter.	Deaths in Second Quarter.	Deaths in Third Quarter.	Deaths in Fourth Quarter.	Total.
1904	84	63	57	87	291
1903	81	70	62	85	298
1902	100	73	57	88	318

The next Table, in which the Deaths of residents only in 1904 are arranged under age groups, and are compared with similar statistics for 1903 and 1902, shows that the same number of infants under one year of age died in 1904 as in 1903—that fewer children and young people between five and twenty-five years of age, and more adults, died in 1904 than in 1903.

TABLE E.

Chorley Rural Council Sanitary District.	Deaths from all Causes at Subjoined Ages.						Total.
	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Totals in 1904 ...	69	37	10	10	88	75	289
Totals in 1903 ...	69	35	14	15	82	71	286
Totals in 1902 ...	88	31	18	8	88	75	308

The Infantile Mortality, or the ratio between the number of Deaths under one year of age and the registered number of Births, was in 1904 at the rate of one hundred and thirty-four (134) per thousand, as compared with one hundred and thirty-one (131) in 1903, and one hundred and thirty-three (133), the average for the decade (1894-1903). The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales in 1904 was one hundred and forty-six (146) per thousand—for 1903 one hundred and thirty-two (132), and for the decade 1894 to 1903, one hundred and fifty-five (155). I am glad to say that our Infantile Mortality is and has been for some years below the average Infantile Mortality throughout England and Wales. The lowest Infantile Mortality occurred in the Brindle Sub-District and Croston Sub-District, viz, seventy-one (71) and ninety-five (95) per thousand. Chorley Sub-District yielded nearly the average of your District, one hundred and thirty-one (131), whilst Leyland and Rivington gave an Infantile Mortality above the average, viz, one hundred and sixty-eight (168) and two hundred and fourteen (214) per thousand respectively.

Fewer Deaths were recorded in 1904 from Enteritis, Tubercular Diseases, and Cancer, etc., but the Mortality from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Heart Disease, Diphtheria, and causes not otherwise specified, was larger in 1904 than in the preceding year. This you will see from Table F, in which I have arranged the Deaths of 1904 and 1903 under the various causes to which they were due, and noticed the increase or decrease in 1904 due to each cause, as compared with 1903.

TABLE F.

Cause of Death.	1904. Number of Deaths.	1903. Number of Deaths.	1904. Increase.	1904. Decrease.
Measles	3	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	5	5	—	—
Whooping Cough	11	13	—	2
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	4	—	4	—
Enteric Fever	3	5	—	2
Other Continued Fevers	1	—	1	—
Epidemic Influenza	3	4	—	1
Diarrhoea	5	7	—	2
Enteritis	6	16	—	10
Puerperal Fever	2	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—
Other Septic Diseases	1	2	—	1
Phthisis	17	18	—	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	13	—	9
Cancer and Malignant Diseases	12	16	—	4
Bronchitis	19	15	4	—
Pneumonia	29	22	7	—
Pleurisy	—	3	—	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	1	—
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver...	3	2	1	—
Premature Birth	14	12	2	—
Heart Disease	29	24	5	—
Accidents	9	10	—	1
Suicides	1	2	—	1
All other Causes	104	92	12	—
Totals	289	286	40	37

Thirty-eight (38) Deaths were registered in your District from Zymotic Diseases, viz, Scarlet Fever nine (9), Measles three (3), Whooping Cough eleven (11), Diphtheria and Membranous Croup four (4), Typhoid and other Continued Fevers four (4), Puerperal Fever two (2), and Diarrhoea five (5). The Zymotic Death-rate of the Deaths registered was therefore 1.88 per thousand per annum. As, however, four of the Scarlet Fever Deaths in the Isolation Hospital occurred in children brought from the Borough of Chorley, I estimate your net Zymotic Death-rate at 1.68 per thousand. The Zymotic Death-rate was accordingly slightly higher than that of 1903, viz, 1.55 per thousand, but was lower than the average Zymotic Death-rate of England and Wales in 1904, viz, 1.94 per thousand.

One hundred and eighty-five (185) cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me during the year. This number is higher than the number of cases reported in 1903, viz, one hundred and forty-seven (147), and also higher than the average number per year in the last decade 1894-1903, viz, one hundred and fifty-three (153).

The notified cases were Scarlet Fever, one hundred and fifteen (115), Diphtheria and Membranous Croup nineteen (19), Erysipelas thirty-eight (38), Typhoid Fever eleven (11), Puerperal Fever two (2), as you will see from Table G, in which I compare the number of cases of each disease reported in 1904 with those in each of the previous ten years, and with the average number notified per year in the decade 1894-1903.

TABLE G.

Year.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.		Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Other Fevers.	Puer-peral Fever.	Totals.
1904	—	19	115	38	11	—	2	185
Average of decade 1894-1903.	4	23	71	26	29	2	2	153
1903	4	15	86	21	20	—	1	147
1902	—	24	175	31	27	1	3	261
1901	—	48	76	34	15	—	4	177
1900	—	16	29	19	28	4	1	97
1899	—	36	55	34	44	2	1	172
1898	—	13	36	22	27	5	—	103
1897	—	7	32	22	43	1	3	108
1896	—	9	67	23	31	2	1	133
1895	—	31	101	30	25	2	2	191
1894	—	34	51	26	33	1	—	145

Coppull again heads the list, but in 1904 only yielded about a quarter of the whole number of infectious cases, instead of one-third, as in 1903, and two-fifths, as in 1902. In Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, Euxton, and Wheelton, also, a considerable number of cases were notified—whereas from Cuerden, as also in 1903, Ulnes Walton, and Duxbury I received no notifications.

I give in the next Table, Table H, the number of cases of each disease reported in 1904 from each township, and compare the totals from each township with the total number of cases notified in 1903.

TABLE H.

Townships.	Small-pox.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Puer-peral Fevers.	1904 Totals.	1903 Totals.
Charnock Richard	—	—	10	2	—	—	12	5
Coppull	—	—	43	2	—	—	45	55
Duxbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Heapey	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Welch Whittle ..	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	6
Brindle	—	—	2	3	1	—	6	1
Hoghton	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	4
Wheelton	—	8	5	5	2	—	20	11
Bretherton	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	3
Eccleston	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
Heskin	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	3
Mawdesley	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	3
Ulnes Walton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Clayton-le-Woods	—	3	14	3	1	1	22	2
Cuerden.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Euxton	—	—	14	4	1	1	20	6
Whittle-le-Woods	—	4	16	5	4	—	29	19
Anderton	—	—	1	7	—	—	8	14
Heath Charnock..	—	1	2	2	—	—	5	9
Rivington	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—
Totals.....	—	19	115	38	11	2	185	147

I am glad to say that no case of Smallpox was reported during the year, though the disease was present in the adjacent sanitary authorities. As you are aware, ample provision has been secured for cases of Smallpox in Finnington Hospital, which is situated in your district, but owned by the Corporation of Blackburn.

One hundred and fifteen (115) cases of Scarlet Fever were notified to me—of which forty-three (43) were from Coppull, sixteen (16) from Whittle-le-Woods, fourteen (14) from Clayton-le-Woods and Euxton respectively, and ten (10) from Charnock Richard. Sixty-seven (67) were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and one of these cases died there. The mortality of the Hospital cases was therefore only 1.5 per cent. Forty-eight (48) cases were allowed to remain at their own homes, and of these four (4) died—yielding a mortality of 8.3 per cent. The mortality of the whole number of cases reported during the year was 4.3 per cent., so that the disease, on the whole, was of a mild character. On account of the prevalence of Scarlet Fever at Clayton-le-Woods, and amongst children attending school at Cuerden, I recommended the closure of the National Schools in these townships. The disease in Clayton-le-Woods was of a more severe type, and three (3) out of the fourteen (14) cases reported died—giving a mortality of 21.4 per cent. Every case of Scarlet Fever was visited by myself or the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Webb, and instructions given to the parents about isolation, disinfection, etc., and disinfectants were supplied by us. In addition, by a resolution of your Council, I was empowered to secure the services of Sewage Works employees at Coppull, Whittle-le-Woods, Wheelton, etc., to fumigate and disinfect the houses, clothing, etc. I think that this course will tend to prevent the spread of the disease amongst infected families and their neighbours. Directly upon convalescence of the infected persons, or after the removal of the cases to the Isolation Hospital, I have instructed in each instance the Sewage Works attendant to disinfect and fumigate the house infected. In the more remote townships, where there are none of your officials resident or near, disinfectants have been supplied and instructions given.

Nineteen (19) cases of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup have been notified to me, and of these four (4) cases died, giving a mortality of 21 per cent. We visited these cases, supplied disinfectants, and caused the houses to be disinfected and fumigated where possible.

I think it would be a distinct advantage if you were to direct me to procure regularly a supply of fresh Antitoxin for the use of the Medical attendants upon cases of Diphtheria. The injection of Antitoxin has proved to be, by far, the most valuable and successful treatment of Diphtheria, and when used early, has reduced the mortality in a most marked manner. If there was known to be a supply always ready for the use of any doctor in your district, valuable time in the application of the remedy would be saved, and the cost would be very little indeed.

Typhoid Fever was reported in eleven (11) instances—by far the fewest number since the Notification of Diseases Act was adopted. Twenty (20) cases were reported in 1903, and the average number of cases in the decade, 1894—1903, was twenty-nine (29). Three (3) Deaths resulted from this disease, or a mortality of 27 per cent. One (1) case was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and ended fatally. Similar action has been taken in reported cases of Typhoid Fever to that which has occurred in Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases. Measles has been widely prevalent throughout the district at various periods of the year, and when I have been informed, I have visited various schools and issued recommendations to

your Council to close them on account of this disease. Accordingly, schools at Ulmes Walton, Eccleston, Coppull, Anderton, and Brindle have by your orders been closed for short periods.

Three (3) Deaths have occurred from Measles—a very low mortality considering the widespread prevalence of the disease. I fear that there is still a great amount of carelessness amongst parents in allowing children suffering or just recovering from Measles to mingle with their playmates, and to go back too early to school. When it is recognised that more children die from Measles and Whooping Cough than from any other infectious disease, perhaps more care will be taken against spreading the infection, and in the treatment of the cases. Whooping Cough was also prevalent, and eleven (11) Deaths resulted. I recommended you to close St. Joseph's School, Brindle, on account of the prevalence of the disease amongst children attending that school.

CHORLEY JOINT HOSPITAL.—The following is the number of patients removed from each township in your Authority during the year:

	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever.
Coppull	27	—
Charnock Richa d ...	5	—
Brindle	1	—
Wheelton	1	—
Mawdesley	1	—
Clayton-le-Woods ...	10	—
Euxton	7	—
Whittle-le-Woods ...	10	1
Heath Charnock ...	4	—
	<hr/> 66	<hr/> 1

Two of the cases admitted into Hospital died there, viz., a case of Scarlet Fever from Clayton-le-Woods, and the case of Typhoid Fever from Whittle-le-Woods. The mortality of hospital patients was accordingly three per cent. of the cases admitted from your district.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—In the various townships comprised under your Authority, the house accommodation is generally very good, and there have not been many instances of over-crowding discovered. In those townships, like Coppull, where the population has been steadily increasing there has been a considerable amount of building carried on during the year. The average number of inhabitants per house at the census of 1901 was five, a proportion that I do not think is now exceeded in any township, except Coppull. There are very few back to back houses; generally there is plenty of open-air space and back-yard accommodation.

The erection of new houses is subjected in the more populous townships, for which you have bye-laws, to the supervision of your Council Surveyor; and the system of drainage of all newly-erected houses has to receive your approval.

SEWERAGE.—In the more populated townships you have constructed main drains and sewage works, whilst in the others the drainage of the more or less isolated houses is conveyed into tanks, or on to land.

COPPULL.—The purification works at Tan Yard Brook for the west portion of this township have been gradually becoming too small on account of the large amount of house building that has been carried on since they were constructed. In consequence the precipitation and filtration of the sewage has not been so satisfactory as it ought to be, and you have undertaken the enlargement and improvement of these works. Plans and estimates have been drawn up by your Surveyor, and will shortly be submitted to the Local Government Board, and a loan applied for.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS AND CLAYTON-LE-WOODS.—You have ordered several improvements to be made in the sewage works for these townships, and also have constructed new sewers in Union-street, and at Dolphin Brow, etc.

HEATH CHARNOCK.—After a long delay a lease of the land for the disposal of the sewage from Rawlinson-lane, etc., has been secured, and the works authorised by you will now be carried out without any delay, the contract for the construction of the works having now been placed.

ECCLESTON.—You have given directions that a ferrozone house be erected at the sewage works, and other improvements be made there, and these have now been carried out.

SCAVENGING.—A great improvement has been effected at Coppull during the year. You have entered into a contract with a responsible man to empty the bogholes and ashpits regularly, and to dispose of their contents. This township has been for many years insufficiently scavenged, and it has been impossible to make the occupiers empty their ashpits, etc., with sufficient regularity and completeness. I am of opinion that you may with advantage extend this practice to other populous townships, notably, Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, Wheelton, and Anderton.

WATER SUPPLY.—There are now three public water supplies in your District, viz:—Anderton and Heath Charnock, from the Thirlmere Aqueduct; Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, Heapey, and Wheelton, from the same source; and Coppull, from the Rivington supply belonging to the Liverpool Corporation. Each of the public water undertakings is affording a plentiful supply of good water to townships previously insufficiently supplied.

During the year you have ordered an extension of the mains at Clayton-le-Woods, along Preston-road to the boundary of the township, and at Whittle-le-Woods along Moss-lane. Plans and estimates for this extension have been prepared by your Surveyor, and submitted to the Local Government Board, and the execution of the work has been commenced.

In several of the other townships with public water supply you have insisted upon owners making connections with your mains where the private supply has been considered insufficient or unsatisfactory. The water supply to the western portion of your District has been under your careful consideration for many months. The townships of Euxton, Eccleston, Ulmes Walton, Bretherton, Heskin, Charnock Richard, and Welch Whittle are very inadequately supplied with water for domestic purposes.

An elaborate scheme has been made by your Surveyor, at an estimated cost of £13,900, by which these townships can be supplied from the Thirlmere Aqueduct. The Urban Council of Croston interviewed **your** Council with the view of joining in the scheme, but finally decided not to accept your terms. The plans and estimates have been accepted by your Council, and have been submitted to the Local Government Board, and you are now ready for the Public Enquiry.

I consider that this supply of water will confer upon the inhabitants of the various townships an incalculable benefit, and when it is carried out, in fifteen out of the twenty-one townships under your jurisdiction, there will be a public supply of wholesome water.

The remaining townships, Anglezarke, Rivington, Cuerden, Hoghton, and Duxbury, are fairly well supplied with water, and are not situated favourably for a public supply.

MAWDESLEY.—It was at first contemplated to include Mawdesley in the western scheme, but the Parish Council strongly objected to the

necessarily heavy expense. Analyses of water from the various wells supplying the householders in this township have been made during the year. The wells in the village generally were found to give fairly satisfactory water for domestic purposes, but four or five wells on Blackmoor, etc., were found to be giving water heavily charged with organic matter. These wells were directed to be closed, and fresh wells have been sunk. I will keep this matter under my observation during the present year, and make a further report to you. In the meantime, you have resolved to exclude Mawdesley from joining in the scheme.

Certificates of sufficient water supply have been given to owners of forty-seven (47) Houses newly erected during the year, viz, at Coppull twenty-four (24), Anderton eight (8), Eccleston six (6), Mawdesley five (5), Whittle-le-Woods two (2), and Charnock Richard and Heath Charnock one (1) each.

Thirty-two (32) samples have been purchased by the County Police, under the Food and Drugs Act, and have been submitted to the County Analyst. No prosecution has followed. The articles taken were:—Milk, ten (10); Lard, eight (8); Butter, four (4); Pepper, four (4); Vinegar, two (2); Cheese, Glycerine, Lemon Squash, and Whisky, one (1) each.

There are not many Factories and Workshops in the townships under your jurisdiction, and they are generally clean, airy, and properly drained. In two or three instances the sanitary accommodation has been found deficient, and orders have been made upon the owners to supply proper accommodation.

In the last Table, Table I., I arrange under each township a list of the nuisances abated and sanitary alterations made by order of your Council on the report of the Nuisance Inspector.

TABLE I.

Townships.	Drains Laid, Repaired, and Cleaned Out.	Privies Erected or Repaired.	Dirty Houses or Houses Infected with Fever Lime-washed and Disinfected.	Other Nuisances Abated.	Totals.
Charnock Richard...	1	9	7	3	20
Coppull	9	5	29	2	45
Heapey	—	—	4	—	4
Welch Whittle	—	—	1	—	1
Brindle	—	—	1	1	2
Wheelton ..	—	—	7	—	7
Bretherton.....	2	1	2	1	6
Eccleston	—	4	—	1	5
Heskin	1	—	2	—	3
Mawdesley ...	1	—	—	—	1
Clayton-le-Woods ...	2	—	8	—	10
Euxton ..	4	—	10	6	20
Whittle-le-Woods ...	7	6	15	3	31
Heath Charnock ...	—	—	3	7	10
Total	27	25	89	24	165

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS, M.D. (LOND.).